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AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT AWARDS MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN GRANTS

The Placer County Air Pollution Control District awarded \$1 million in clean air grants recently for 16 projects that could reduce the region's air pollution by almost 15 tons per year.

The district's board of directors approved awarding the grants to local public agencies and businesses at its April 14 meeting. In most cases, the recipients will use the money to replace old automobiles and trucks with new, low-emission vehicles.

The district estimates the grants will reduce emissions of ozone precursors and toxic particulate matter by more than 78 tons over the lives of the projects, which range from one to 40 years. In most cases, the district board awarded grants to projects that are cost-effective when costs are compared with estimates of how many tons of pollutants they will eliminate. Overall, their cost-effectiveness is approximately \$12,000 per ton of emissions reduced.

Several grants went to projects that promise educational benefits.

The board, for example, awarded grants that will help pay for the city of Auburn and county Public Works Department to replace standard gasoline automobiles with hybrid vehicles. Those projects aren't as cost-effective as some of the others, but the district expects that seeing hybrid vehicles on local roadways will help get the public more interested in the hybrid option.

Another grant that promises direct and indirect benefits is \$100,000 awarded to the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency for a two-year outreach and educational program targeted at employers, residents and local schools. The program seeks to reduce traffic congestion and increase the use of public transit.

Funding for the grants includes \$550,000 from a small surcharge the district levies on motor vehicles registered in Placer County; \$400,000 that new development projects have paid into the district's Air Quality Mitigation Fund; and \$50,000 contributed by Union Pacific Railroad under a memorandum of understanding with the district.

The railroad and district are working together to achieve a one-ton reduction in toxic particulate-matter emissions in Roseville over three years.

In all, the district received 20 applications seeking a total of almost \$1.7 million. Grant recipients included:

- \$34,500 for the city of Auburn to partially fund three hybrid automobiles;
- \$18,872 for Todd Heldt Excavations to partially fund scrapping a heavy-duty diesel truck and purchasing a 2000 lower-emission model;
- \$62,500 for the Placer County Public Works Department to partially fund a new low-emission diesel truck;
- \$50,000 for the Auburn-Placer Disposal Service to partially fund retrofitting diesel refuse trucks so they emit fewer pollutants;
- \$100,000 for the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency to partially pay for the congestion-management and transit marketing program;
- \$100,000 for the city of Roseville to partially fund retrofitting diesel refuse trucks so they emit fewer pollutants;
- \$30,000 for Tahoe Area Regional Transit to scrap an older diesel pickup truck and purchase a replacement pickup truck powered by compressed natural gas;
- \$25,000 for Marshall Excavating to partially offset the cost of purchasing a newer low-emission 2000 year truck so the company can scrap a 1984 heavy-duty diesel truck;
- \$75,000 for the county Facility Services Department to partially fund a 41-kilowatt photovoltaic power system that will be installed on the county's Larry Oddo Finance Administration Building at the DeWitt Center in Auburn;
- \$120,000 for the city of Roseville to partially fund three commuter buses powered by compressed natural gas or hybrid/electric technology;
- \$96,000 for county Public Works to partially fund hybrid vehicles;
- \$87,500 for the city of Lincoln to partially fund the purchase of a 2005 low-emission refuse truck that will replace a 1991 truck;
- \$25,000 for the city of Lincoln to partially fund retrofitting two refuse trucks so they emit fewer pollutants;
- \$85,628 for the California Department of Transportation to partially fund retrofitting heavy-duty diesel vehicles so they emit fewer pollutants;
- \$30,000 for the Placer County Fire Department to purchase a new wood chipper that will be used to reduce outdoor burning of vegetation; and
- \$60,000 for the Northstar Fire Protection District to partially fund the acquisition of a track chipper to reduce open burning in the Martis Valley and Tahoe Basin.

The Clean Air Grant Program is administered on an annual basis by the air district.

The 2006 program cycle will open with applications being accepted from January through March, with the grant recommendations going to the board in April 2006. The amount of funding available will be determined by the district board through the fiscal year 2005-06 budget, which will be reviewed by directors in June of this year with final approval scheduled for Aug. 11.

Additional information can be obtained by referring to the [district web site](#) or by calling the district at 530-745-2330.